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(71) Applicant  
Barry John Paton  
95 Hawes Lane, West Wickham, Kent

(72) Inventor  
Barry John Paton

(74) Agent and/or Address for Service  
Barry John Paton  
95 Hawes Lane, West Wickham, Kent

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(58) Field of search  
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(54) Road vehicles with demountable bodies

(57) A vehicle e.g. 4 seater saloon, has a body 12 which is detachable from the chassis 10 so that a different body can be substituted to change the load carrying function of the vehicle or, in the event of mechanical or electrical failure, a second chassis can be substituted for the first so that the load carrying function of the body is not interrupted. The steering column is detachably mounted to facilitate exchange of bodies.

FIG. 2

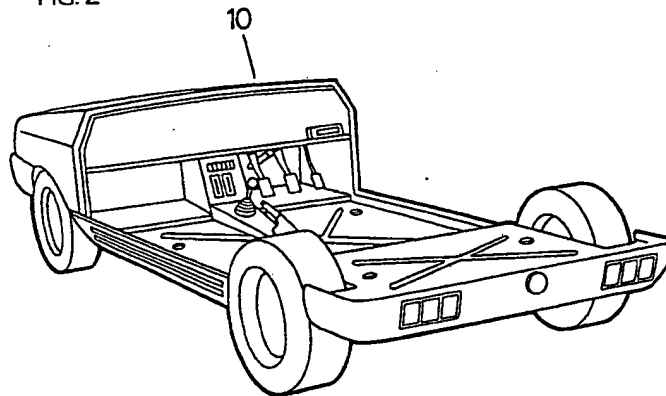
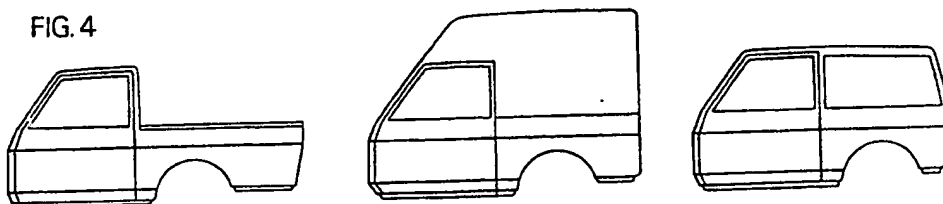


FIG. 4



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FIG.1

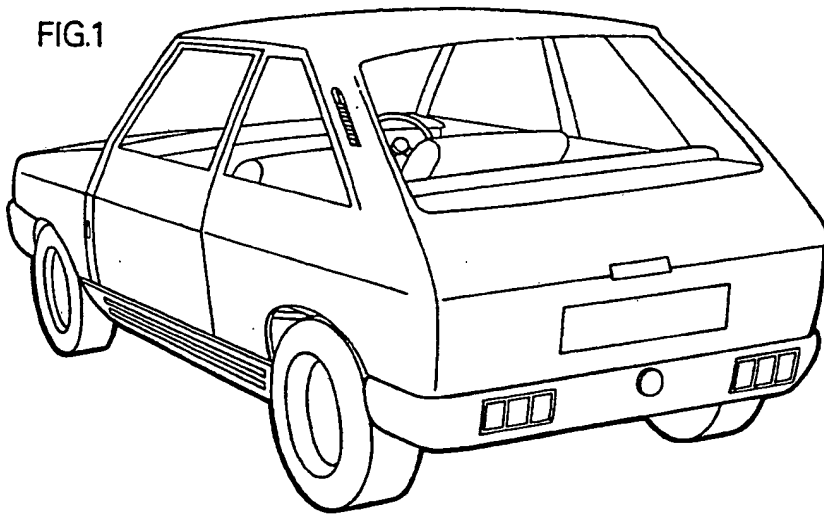


FIG. 2

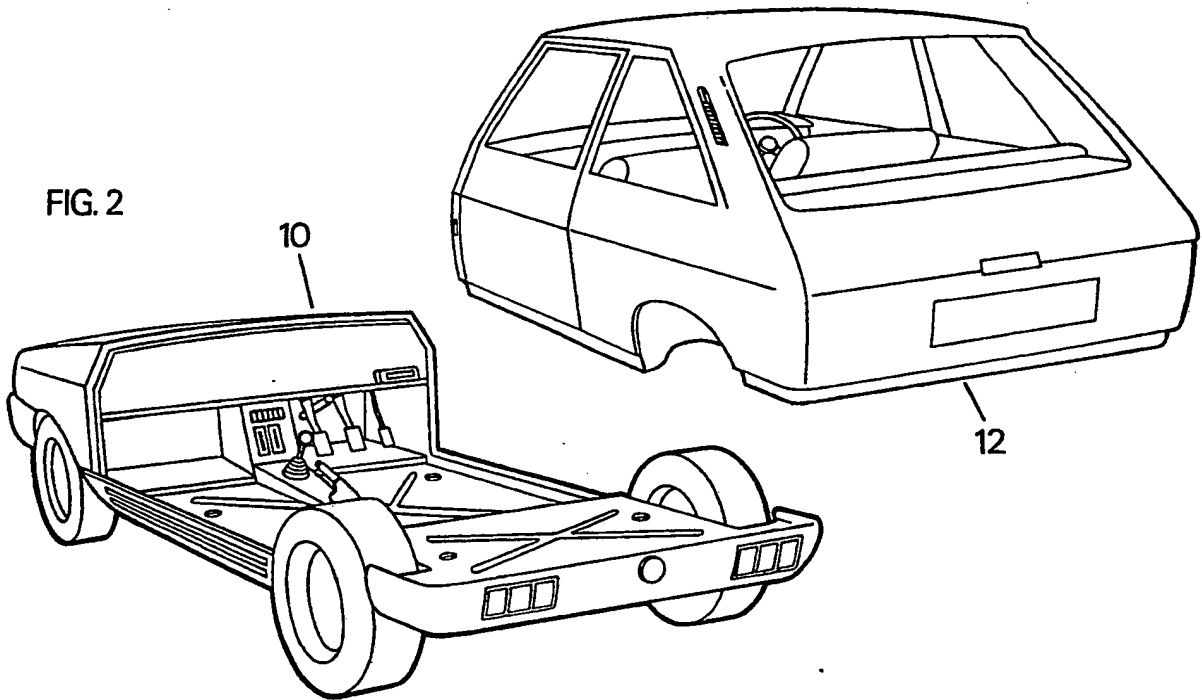


FIG. 3

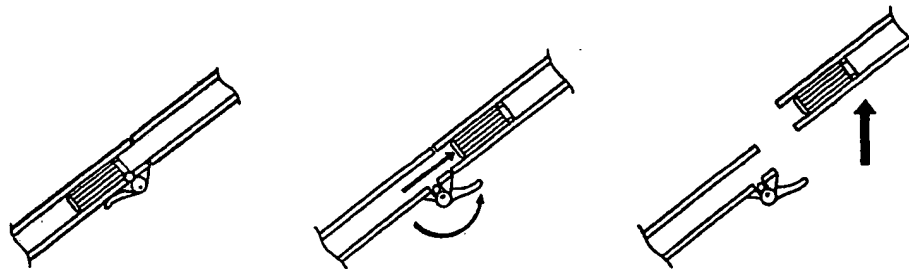
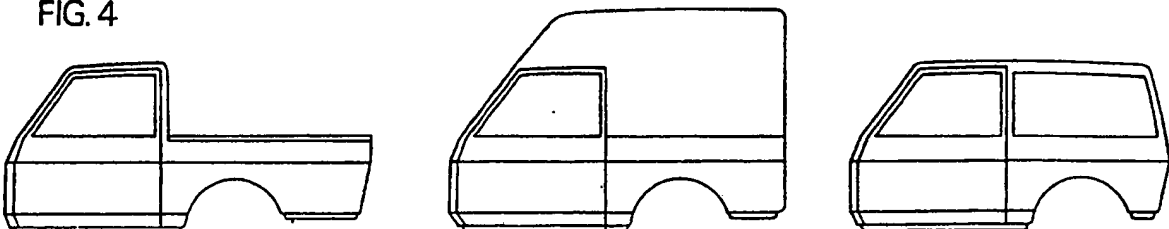


FIG. 4



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## COMPOSITE CAR SYSTEM

This invention relates to a car with a detachable body.

Cars are well known motor vehicles which comprise a wheeled chassis with an integral body or a wheeled chassis upon which a body is permanently attached. There are many types of motor vehicles available to suit various requirements ie, two seater, four seater, pick-ups, vans. etc.

The load carrying part of these vehicles is permanently attached to the mechanical parts.

In the event of mechanical or electrical failure the load carrying part of the vehicle must of necessity remain idle and cannot be used.

According to the present invention there is provided a detachable bodied motor vehicle comprising a wheeled chassis incorporating the mechanical and electrical functions, a detachable body, means for releasably securing the body on the chassis provision for a retractable steering column and suitable provision on the body to allow it to be lifted on and off the chassis.

A specific embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawing in which:-

Figure 1 shows in perspective the motor vehicle with the body in position on the chassis.

Figure 2 illustrates the separation of the body from the chassis.

Figure 3 shows some alternative bodies.

Figure 4 illustrates the retractable steering column.

Referring to the drawing the motor vehicle comprises a wheeled chassis 10, incorporating the mechanical and electrical functions and a body 12, in the form of a small 4/5 seat saloon car (as shown in Fig 1) or another type of body (as shown in Fig 4) which is releasably secured to the chassis by, for example, a mechanical locking device or solenoid operated locks or similar means (not shown). On the body suitable means of attachment for lifting the body on and off the chassis.

In order to remove the body from the chassis the means of securing the body are released, the steering column is retracted (as shown in Fig 3), the body is then lifted by a suitable device and the chassis is then withdrawn from underneath the body as illustrated in Fig 2.

In the event of mechanical or electrical failure a second chassis can now be substituted for the first in order to regain use of the load carrying function of the body. If required the function of the motor vehicle can be changed by substituting the first body with a second body of a different load carrying capacity (as shown in Fig 4).

To remount a body on the chassis the steps described above are carried out in the reverse sequence.

CLAIMS

1. A detachable bodied motor vehicle comprising a wheeled chassis incorporating the mechanical and electrical functions, a body in various forms with suitable mountings on the body to allow for lifting on and off the chassis.
2. A detachable bodied motor vehicle as claimed in Claim 1. wherein the steering column is retractable to, allow detachment of body.
3. A detachable bodied motor vehicle as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein catchment means are provided on the chassis for securing the body.
4. A detachable bodied motor vehicle substantially as described herein with reference to Figs 1-4 of the accompanying drawing.